

St. Francis *of* Assisi Parish

Teutopolis, Illinois

*Second
Sunday
of
Advent*



From the Pastor

December Travels. I am scheduled to be in Nashville, TN, from December 7 – 9 in order to participate in the 80th anniversary celebration of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Without a break, I have to be in Milwaukee December 10 – 14. Our Provincial Council will be joining the councils from throughout the country to meet with the Minister General who is coming over from Assisi. I was originally going to head up to Manitowoc to visit our retired friars, but I have canceled those plans in order to get back home for 3rd grade Reconciliation on the 15th.

On December 26, Br. Tom and I will head up to visit our family in northern WI. We should be back in T-Town no later than the evening of 1/2/13.

Thanks! One of the things I love about St. Francis is that there are any number of people who volunteer to help in a variety of ways.

Thanks to **Frank and Cathy Brummer** for taking the food from our Thanksgiving collection over to Catholic Charities.

Thanks to all those who helped decorate for Thanksgiving. The church was beautiful!

Thanks to **Joe Zerrusen, Fr. Vernon**, and the 5th and 6th grade students who prepared the new missalettes and boxed up the old missalettes for recycling.

Retirement for Religious. Today we take up the annual Retirement for Religious collection. This collection assists religious congregations (including Sacred Heart Province) in caring for their retired members. Please support this effort to help care for those who have dedicated themselves to the service of the Church.

Church Windows. With the help of **Anita Broom** who helped me figure out how to use the copy machine as a scanner, I have compiled information about the church windows from a booklet put together by **Fr. Theodosius Plassmeyer** back in 1923. Those explanations are now available near each window.

Parish Office

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Parish E-mailstfrancischurch@mchsi.com

Parish website: stfrancischurch.com

Submit written bulletin notices by noon Monday.

Diocesan website: www.dio.org

Ember Beddingfield, Victim Assistance Coordinator....

(217) 321-1155

Hygiene Alert. We're getting into cold and flu season. Please remember to protect your health and that of others. Proper steps would include:

- If you have a serious cold or the flu, please stay home on Sunday. You are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass if you are sick.
- Be aware that others might not want to shake hands during the Sign of Peace. They might be protecting YOU. Please don't attempt to force others to shake hands against their will.
- If you are coughing or sneezing, please don't receive Communion from the cup—otherwise your fellow communicants might be reluctant to receive.
- Use the hand sanitizer that is available in several places in the church.

Let's do our best to keep each other healthy over the next few months.

Thanks!
Fr. John

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 10

6:30 am: Helen Thoele +

12:10pm: Genevieve Schniederjon+

Tuesday, December 11

6:30 am: Genevieve Schniederjon +

8:05 am: Joyce Dasenbrock +

Wednesday, December 12

6:30 am: Genevieve Schniederjon +

8:05 am: AID Charles Brumleve

Thursday, December 13

6:30 am: Genevieve Schniederjon +

8:05 am: Genevieve Schniederjon +

Friday, December 14

6:30 am:

8:05 am:

Saturday, December 15

6:00 am:

8:00 am:

5:30 pm:

Sunday, December 16

7:00 am: Pro Populo

8:45 am: Pro Populo

10:30 am: Pro Populo

Liturgy Schedule 2nd Week of Advent December 10-16

Monday,	Mass at 6:30 am & 12:10 pm
Tuesday,	St. Damasus I Mass at 6:30 & 8:05 am
Wednesday,	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at 6:30 & 8:05 am
Thursday,	St. Lucy Mass at 6:30 & 8:05 am No 12:10 Mass
Friday,	St. John of the Cross Mass at 6:30 & 8:05 am
Saturday,	Mass at 8:00 am & 5:30 pm
Sunday,	3rd Sunday of Advent Mass at 7:00, 8:45, 10:30 am

Confession Schedule

Saturday, - 3:30-4:30 pm

Liturgy of the Hours with Friars

Monday-Friday -- 11:45 am & 4:45 pm

Please Note. On Thursday, December 13th, there will be an 8:05 am Mass. No 12:10 pm Mass on that day.

Parish Confessions—Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7-8 pm



Pray for the Sick

Please remember in your prayers: Cathy Green, Renae Roepke, Eddie Siemer, Cheryl Ann Huber, Chris Utz, Anna Habing, Mack Kitten, Jim Koester, Tom Vonderheide, Jack Hardiek, Chuck Stevens, Toby McMahon, Mary Lynn Hartke

Stewardship of Treasure

	<u>Sunday</u> 12/2/2012	<u>Total Fiscal</u> Year
311 Adult envelopes	\$8,916.50	\$189,304.00
Other	\$551.67	\$12,143.97
TOTAL	\$9,468.17	\$201,447.97
GOAL	\$9,900.00	\$227,700.00



Parish Calendar

Monday, December 10

- CCW Christmas Party, 6:30 pm, Teutopolis Grade School Auditorium
- Men's Holy Name mtg., 7:00 pm, Museum Meeting Room
- Catholicism, 7:00 pm, St. Clare

Tuesday, December 11

- RCIA, 7:00 pm, St. Clare

Wednesday, December 12

- Children's Choir, 3:30-4:30 pm
- Jr. High and H. S. Religion, 7:20 pm
- Rosary, 8:00 pm, Chapel

Thursday, December 13

- Catholicism, 10:00 am, St. Clare
- Adult and Teen Choir, 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 15

- Grade 3 Family Reconciliation, 9:00-10:00 and 10:30-11:30 am
- SEARCH, 9:10-11:30 am
- Confessions, 3:30-4:30 pm
- CHWC Cookie Sales after 5:30 Mass

Sunday, December 16

- CHWC Cookie Sales after all Masses
- Secular Franciscans meet, 2:00 pm in Church, 1:00-4:00 pm in St. Clare Hall
- Catholicism, 8:00 pm, St. Clare

Please join us in praying the rosary every Wednesday night for all those in need of our prayers. We pray together in the chapel at 8:00 pm. All are welcome.

Sing Along. St. Francis Singers and Friends will be singing at Evergreen Nursing Center on Wednesday, December 12th at 10:00 am.

Special Collection. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki has asked each parish in the diocese to take a special collection for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Our Catholic Charities in the Springfield Diocese will coordinate this effort and ensure that all funds collected from participating parishes will be directed to the local Catholic Charities agencies serving our brothers and sisters in need out east. We will take this second collection on Dec. 15/16.



Homebound Ministers

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound for Sunday, December 16th are Lenora Drees 857-3583 and Deb Runde 857-6281.

RCIA continues to meet after the 8:45 Mass in the museum meeting room on Sunday mornings. A second meeting time is Tuesday evenings at 7:00. Sessions generally run about an hour.

Bible Study resumes in January. Please watch the bulletin for the time and place.

Protecting God's Children training will be Monday, January 14th in St. Clare Hall from 6:00-9:00 p.m. A special invitation to all those who are involved in homebound ministry and to the nursing home singers. Please call the parish office to register for materials. Bishop Paprocki has extended the deadline for parishes to be in compliance with the mandate that all persons who volunteer in any way in the parish are to be trained in the Protecting God's Children program to April 1, 2013.

B & B Sunday will resume after the new year. Please watch for upcoming details.

Christmas Cookies! The CHWC crew will be selling decorated Christmas cookies and candies on December 15 and 16 after all Masses in St. Clare Hall! Let us do your Christmas baking for you!



Scrip cards will be on sale at the same time & place! Thanks for supporting our area youth!

Lost & Found

A little boy's coat, size 4, olive green, orange lining, is in the parish office waiting for someone to claim.

Holy Humor... Bible Playlists

Adam & Eve: "Strangers in Paradise"

Methuselah: "Stayin' Alive"

Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"

Esau: "Born to be Wild"

Moses: "The Wanderer"

Samson: "Hair"

Jezebel: "The Lady is a Tramp"

Elijah: "Up, Up, and Away"

Esther: "I Feel Pretty"

Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"

Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego: "Great Balls of Fire!"

Nebuchadnezzar: "Crazy"

Jonah: "Got a Whale of a Tale"

The Three Kings: "When You Wish Upon a Star"

Salome: "I Could Have Danced All Night"

Lazarus: "The Second Time Around"

Religious Education News

GRADE SCHOOL. Many thanks to all Grade 3 children, parents, teachers, all who helped with the Christmas store for the Missions. The total amount to be shared with the local missionaries will be announced next week. Those who will be receiving donations for their ministries are: the Franciscan Missionary Union in honor of Fr. Maurice Hawickhorst and others; Sister Ann Fearday, asc working in Bolivia; Sister Mary Christine Spour, ssnd ; Sr. Jane Hotze –Haiti; Fr. Paul Habing; Anne Brummer, Focus Missionary; Catholic Charities. God bless all with the peace, hope, and joy of this Christmas season!

Attention parents, catechists, and Mass supervisors—there will be no religion classes on Friday, December 14; however there will be regular school classes on that day during that time.

Attention Catechists, Mass supervisors, Video presenters, and helpers, please mark your calendars for the Christmas gathering on Tuesday, December 18, in the Museum Dining Room from 8:00 to 9:00 (Catechists) and 9:00-10:00-(Mass supervisors and all others).

Grade 5 students will be taking their Diocesan religion test on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week.

PRE/K Sunday religion program—Children are practicing for their Epiphany program and songs on Sunday morning during the 10:30 Mass in the Museum Dining Room.

JUNIOR HIGH. The Grade 8 students will be taking their Diocesan religion test during class on Wednesday. If any student is missing from class on Wednesday, they are to come to the Religious Education Office south of the Church on Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:30 to make up the test. Thank you. Grade 7 students will continue reviewing the catechesis regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation and questions on morality.

HS Religious Ed. Next week is our final class for this semester for high school religious education classes. Classes will resume in January!

Youth Notes. FaLaLaLaLa! Come join in the fun and Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 16! We'll meet at the Teen Center at 6:30 pm, carol around town till 8 pm and then come back to the teen center for snacks and hot chocolate (yes, by request, we'll have our famous chocolate spoons!). All junior high, high school, and college students as well as families, singles, couples, or even reindeer are invited to come sing with us! Share your spirit of Christmas!

Ministry Sign-ups. There are ministry sign-up sheets for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in the main entrance of Church. If you are commissioned to be in any of the ministries: Usher, Lector, Gift Bearer, or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please consider sharing your ministry this Christmas season. Also, please check in the sacristy the day of the Holy Day to see where you are needed. Thank you for sharing your time and ministry!

Help Needed. We are still in need of altar servers for Christmas. Needed are:

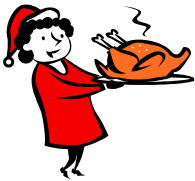
- 3 or 4 servers and 8 torchbearers for 10:30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve
- 1 server for 7:00 am Mass on Christmas Day
- 1 server for 8:45 am Mass on Christmas Day
- 1 server for 8:45 am Mass on January 1 (Holy Day)

If you are able to help serve at any of these Masses, please call Barb Runde at 821-9950. Thank you!

CCW News—Christmas Party, 2012

The officers of St. Francis CCW wish to extend an invitation to all women of our parish to our annual CCW Christmas Party on Monday, December 10, 2012. The evening will begin at 6:30pm at TGS Auditorium.

Turkey, dressing, noodles, rolls, drinks and table service will be provided for the dinner. Please bring a covered dish. A \$3.00 gift exchange is optional. Please join us for a delicious dinner, fun and fellowship. Donations for Catholic Charities Food Pantry will be accepted and warmly appreciated!!



Welcome Those Recently Baptized:

Meriel Celeste Schumacher,

daughter of Jason and Kayla (Westendorf) Schumacher

June Marie Tegeler,

daughter of Jason and Megan (Hoene) Tegeler

Brynn Elizabeth Weber,

daughter of Bryce Weber and Mallory Richards

Evan Joseph Weidner,

son of Matthew and Jennifer (McCabe) Weidner

Teutopolis Park District. Instructional Basketball for 3rd and 4th grade girls and boys of Unit 50. Instructions are scheduled for January 7, 9, 11 for girls and January 16, 18, 22 for boys, 3:30-4:45 pm at the Teutopolis Grade School Gym. Cost is \$10.00. Sign up deadline is **December 15th.**

Diamond Jubilee. Br. Pauli Johnson, O.F.M. will be celebrating his Diamond Jubilee as a Franciscan on Sunday, December 16th at the 10:00 am Mass at St. Anthony Church in St. Louis. Br. Pauli (who served St. Francis Parish for many years) extends an invitation to all of St. Francis Parish who would like to attend.

Christmas Open House at The Cross today, December 9th from 1:00-3:00 pm. You are invited to stop by the Welcome Center during the Open House to view more than 50 unique Nativity scenes from around the world. Enjoy free refreshments and Christmas music. Gather your family and friends for this great opportunity to get your hearts prepared for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent Evensong will be held today, December 9th at 4:00 pm at Holy Cross Church, Wendelin. A candle-light service with Scripture, Organ, English Carols, and Austrian Christmas music—sung in German, by the Wendelin Kloepfen Singers. All are welcome.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Every few years, Congress wrangles for months to enact a transportation bill. The latest version, signed into law on July 6, 2012, provides \$120 billion through fiscal 2014. In addition to providing funding for thousands of projects throughout the country, the law also ensures that nearly three million workers will remain on the job constructing and repairing the nation's roads, rails, and mass transit. At the time that the previous law was expiring (fiscal 2009) the American Society of Civil Engineers estimated that the country actually needed to spend about \$1.3 trillion on items covered in the transportation bill (plus another \$900 billion for other infrastructure needs) over five years. Clearly filling in valleys and making low the mountains and hills is not an inexpensive proposition.

John the Baptist quotes the prophet Isaiah in today's Gospel. Isaiah's prophecy is based on the kind of roadwork that took place in the ancient world. Before a conquering general or king would arrive, the way was cleared before him. A rough road was made smooth (to allow for a rapid advance); a crooked, winding road opened up and made straight (to prevent an ambush). Isaiah's prophecy came near the end of the Babylonian Exile, when it was perceived that the LORD would once again take possession of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Luke uses the Isaiah prophecy not to portray John the Baptist as some kind of civil engineer, but rather to indicate that there is work and preparation involved in welcoming the LORD. We'll hear more about that next week.

The cost of repairing and upgrading the nation's infrastructure is enormous, maybe more that we can afford. The cost of following Christ is also great. But the payment for that doesn't so much come out of our wallets, as out of our hearts. **With just a little over two weeks to go before Christmas, what are you doing to make it easier for the Lord to enter your heart?**

ADDRESSES FOR THE RELIGIOUS—December, 2012

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